

Emergency Response News



April 2001

IDEM addresses hazardous waste at former ammunition casing facility in Warrick County

The Indiana Department of Environment Mangement (IDEM) conducted a site assessment and removal actions about hazardous waste at an abandoned, ammunition casing manufacturing facility in Boonville, Warrick County.

On March 28, the Boonville Police Department called IDEM's Southwest Regional Office in Evansville to report leaking drums labeled hazardous waste, a degreasing tank and waste disposal pits at a deserted industrial facility.

An IDEM on-scene coordinator investigated and found hazardous waste at the abandoned facility, where the former Murphy Engineering Company had operated. He discovered seeping drums marked hazardous waste, a degreasing tank and containers filled with unknown product at the property. The on-scene coordinator identified some waste to be cyanide, hydrochloric acid and paint thinners.

The on-scene coordinator and a project manager in IDEM's State Cleanup Section hired and oversaw a contractor to overpack the drums and containers, clean the tank and vacuum up product for disposal at a permitted hazardous waste facility. Removal actions were completed at the location on March 31.

An IDEM project manager from the Site Investigation Section conducted a reconnaissance at the property.

Removal actions will be paid for through the Hazardous Substances Response Trust Fund. IDEM may seek reimbursement from the responsible party.



Site Snapshot

IDEM action:

Overpacked and removed hazardous waste at an abandoned property

Location:

Residential area in Boonville, Warrick County

Primary substances of concern:

Cyanide and other hazardous waste

Environmental threat:

Potential risk to human health and the environment from hazardous waste

For further information about IDEM's emergency response, removal and reconnaissance actions at the site, contact staff at the following phone numbers or toll-free at (800) 451-6027:

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